

from the editor



**Michaela
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A focus on industry

In the context of the current Senate Inquiry into current and future skills needs and the restructure of national industry advisory structures, this issue of *The Australian TAFE Teacher* has a focus on industry and its links to vocational education and training.

The reports and analysis found in this edition explore a range of different aspects of TAFE's relationship to industry and provide a range of diverse and interesting perspectives.

Jacqueline King, Industrial Officer of the ACTU, reports on the ACTU's submission to the Senate Inquiry, outlining some of the key objectives and strategies supported by the ACTU. Ensuring that TAFE as the public provider is provided with adequate funding to be strong and viable is a key message.

Clive Chappell, Director of OVAL RESEARCH at the University of Technology Sydney, provides an analysis of changes in work, skill, knowledge and learning which have implications for an 'industry-led' system.

Leo Van Neuren from the IT&T ITAB and Bob Paton from the MERS ITAB report on trends in the information technology and telecommunications and manufacturing industries respectively. In the process, they analyse the implications for vocational education and training of the changes occurring in their industries. Tom Karmel, Managing Director of NCVER, also discusses future skill

requirements and implications for TAFE Institutes.

Fran Ferrier, from the Monash University — ACER Centre for the Economics of Education and Training, tells us about the possibilities of making connections with the National Innovation System, suggesting ways in which TAFEs and Cooperative Research Centres could work together.

Robin Shreeve, the Deputy Director-General of TAFE NSW, outlines recent research findings and projects aimed at developing new thinking about teaching and learning. He argues that the development of a pedagogy for VET is long overdue.

Moira Scollay, in her last column for ANTA, talks about the need for additional support for practitioners which has been a clear outcome of

recent research projects. In her farewell, she talks about TAFE as the public provider and the 'vibrant core' of training provision, as well as the people she has met whose lives have been changed by TAFE.

As always, there's a lot more between the covers of this issue but I'm keeping this short to leave room for Pat Forward, Federal President of the TAFE Division, to say a few words about the ANTA CEOs, past and future.

However, I do want to say that negotiations for the next ANTA Agreement are underway, and it is vital that TAFE teachers get the message about TAFE needs across, to politicians and to the community. Stay in touch with your Branch or Associated Body's campaign, and keep informed about national events via www.acufederal.org.au. ■

I would like to thank Moira Scollay, the outgoing CEO of ANTA, for her contribution during the time she has held her office, including her regular column for *The Australian TAFE Teacher*. We wish her well in her future career.

I would also like to congratulate Janina Gawler, who will take up the position. Janina Gawler has most recently been Chief Adviser, Sustainable Regional Development, for Rio Tinto at the Argyle Diamond Mine in the Kimberly region. Her background includes considerable experience in relation to Indigenous issues as well as education; she has herself been a secondary teacher. I hope that she will continue the link with *The Australian TAFE Teacher* and develop a good dialogue with TAFE teachers and their union, the AEU.

Pat Forward, Federal TAFE President